



based adults from late May through July. Its population is declining because of the continuing loss of woodland pool habitats in Iowa.

### **Habitats**

Bottomland forests; temporary water supplies; interior rivers and streams; wet prairies and fens

### **Iowa Status**

common; native

### **Iowa Range**

southern third of Iowa

### **Bibliography**

Iowa Department of Natural Resources. 2001.  
*Biodiversity of Iowa: Aquatic Habitats* CD-ROM.

## **smallmouth salamander**

*Ambystoma texanum*

Kingdom:	Animalia
Division/Phylum:	Chordata - vertebrates
Class:	Amphibia
Order:	Caudata
Family:	Ambystomatidae

### **Features**

The smallmouth salamander ranges from four to 6 3/4 inches long. It has a small mouth and head. There are two color variations: the dark variation has an indistinct pattern, while the speckled variation has a black and gray pattern on a black background. The belly is black. Typically, most animals become plain brown as they age.

### **Natural History**

The smallmouth salamander lives in woodlands, river floodplains, and areas where woodlands have been cleared. It may be found under objects or in burrows. This salamander eats earthworms, slugs, and arthropods (spiders, insects, mites, etc.). It is active at night. Breeding occurs from late February through March, sometimes while ice is still on the ponds. Each female may deposit from 300 to over 800 eggs. Eggs are deposited on sticks or vegetation in masses of six to 30 in any standing body of water. Eggs hatch in a few days to two weeks. Larvae transform into land-